

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 13, 57-58 and 67-78 will be pending in this application and presented for examination. Claim 1-12, 14-56 and 59-66 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 13, 57-58 have been amended. Claims 67-78 have been newly added. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

I. FORMALITIES

Support for amendments to the claims and new claims is found throughout the application as filed. More particularly, claims 13, and 57-58 have been amended to incorporate the limitation of the base claim. Furthermore, support for the newly added claims 67-74 is found, *inter alia*, in claim 1 and on page 8, lines 28-29. No new matter has been introduced with the foregoing amendments and new claims. As such, Applicants respectfully request that the amendment to the claims and the new claims be entered.

II. REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 6 and 8 as allegedly being anticipated by Pedregal *et al.* (*Journal Heterocyclic Chemistry*, 1984, 31, 477-480). In order to expedite prosecution of the present application, Applicants have canceled claims 1, 6 and 8 without prejudice. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner's rejection has been rendered moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

III. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner indicated that claims 13, and 57-58 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form and be directed toward the expanded examined embodiment. As suggested by the Examiner, Applicants have rewritten claims 13, 57 and 58 in independent form to include the features of the base claims as suggested by the Examiner. Furthermore, Applicants have added new dependent claims 67-78 to set forth other preferred embodiments of the invention.

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Amdt. dated January 27, 2004
Reply to Office Action of October 31, 2003

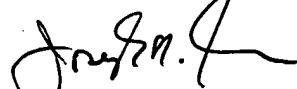
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IV. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 925-472-5000.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments
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